

Claims:

1. A method of assembling cells for use in a cell relay network, comprising the steps of creating a template data structure representing the structure of a cell to be assembled, storing said template data structure in memory, and creating cells by retrieving said template data structures and inserting variable information therein.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a pointer table stores the location of said data structures in memory.
3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein a separate pointer is provided for each virtual channel in the network.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein circular pointers control which circular buffers are associated with a virtual channel in said network.
5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the circular buffer pointers to control the order in which data is placed in the cell payload.
6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said template data structure is created by a program running on a central processing unit.
6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in a DBCES service with a multiframe structure, re-sizing of the multiframe structure is carried out with the aid of a DBCES cell template.
7. A method as claimed in claim 6, for use in an SDT DBCES (Structured Data Transfer Dynamic Bandwidth Circuit Emulation) service, wherein the DBCES data structure has three major regions, namely a first region containing information that does not change when the multiframe structure is re-sized, and two regions containing information that changes during multiframe resize.
8. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said cells are Unstructured Data Transfer (UDT), Structured Data transfer (SDT), or DSS (Dynamic Structure sizing) cells.
9. A device for assembling cells from a data stream for transmission over a cell relay network, comprising:
 - a memory storing a template data structure representing the structure of a cell to be assembled; and

a segmentation unit for retrieving said template data structure from said memory and creating cells by inserting variable information therein.

10. A device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said memory is connected to a microprocessor controlling the operation thereof.
- 5 11. A device as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a pointer table storing the location of said data structures in said memory.
12. A device as claimed in claim 9, further comprising circular buffers associated with virtual channels in said network, and circular pointers for controlling which circular buffers are associated with which channels.
- 10 13. A device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the circular buffer pointers control the order in which data is placed in the cell payload.
14. A device as claimed in any claim 9, further comprising a central processing unit connected to said memory and controlling the operation thereof.
15. The use of cell template data structures to form ATM cells.